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SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

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Item 6 of the provisional agenda*

ORGANIZATION OF WORK, INCLUDING ESTABLISHMENT OF THE MAIN COMMITTEE

Organizational and procedural matters

Note by the Secretariat

1. At its third session, the Preparatory Committee for the World Summit for Social Development approved the provisional agenda and proposed organization of work for the Summit (see A/CONF.166/PC/28). The provisional rules of procedure for the Summit, as approved by the Preparatory Committee at its second session and by the General Assembly in its decision 49/446 of 23 December 1994, are also submitted to the Summit for adoption. The proposals contained herein have been prepared on the basis of the above-mentioned documents.

I. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

2. Rule 6 of the provisional rules of procedure for the Summit (A/CONF.166/2) provides that the Summit shall elect from among the representatives of participating States the following officers: a President, 27 Vice-Presidents and an ex officio Vice-President from the host country, a Rapporteur-General, and a Chairman of the Main Committee established in accordance with rule 46. These officials shall be elected on the basis of ensuring the representative character of the General Committee composed in accordance with rule 11. The Summit may also elect such other officers as it deems necessary for the performance of its functions.

3. Rule 11 provides that the Summit will have a General Committee composed of the President, the Vice-Presidents, the Rapporteur-General and the Chairman of the Main Committee. In accordance with standard practice, the Presidency of the

* A/CONF.166/1.

Summit would go to the host country. The 27 Vice-Presidents would be distributed according to the following geographical pattern: seven representatives from African States, six from Asian States, three from Eastern European States, five from Latin American and Caribbean States, and six from Western European and other States. Regional groups should endeavour to ensure that they will be in a position to make known their nominations for the posts in the General Committee at the opening of the Summit.

II. ADOPTION OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE

4. The Summit will have before it the provisional rules of procedure approved by the General Assembly in decision 49/446. The provisional rules of procedure are contained in document A/CONF.166/2.

III. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

5. The Preparatory Committee recommended for adoption by the Summit the provisional agenda set out in document A/CONF.166/1.

IV. ORGANIZATION OF WORK, INCLUDING ESTABLISHMENT OF THE MAIN COMMITTEE

A. Organization of work

6. In accordance with the proposed organization of work for the Summit, which was approved by the Preparatory Committee, the Summit will be composed of a plenary and a main committee.

B. Allocation of items

7. It is proposed that items 1-9 and 11 of the provisional agenda be considered in plenary meeting, and that item 10 (Declaration and Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development) be allocated to the Main Committee. Negotiations on the Declaration and Programme of Action will be carried out in the Main Committee, while the general exchange of views and the meeting of heads of State or Government will take place in plenary meeting. Upon the conclusion of its work, the Main Committee will submit a report to the Summit.

C. General exchange of views

8. The general exchange of views will take place from the morning of 6 March to 10 March. It is suggested that statements during the general exchange of views on each day place special emphasis on specific themes, as outlined in the annex to the present note, it being understood that, notwithstanding such themes, speakers may address in their statements any of the topics on the Summit

agenda. No delegation will be allowed to speak more than once during the general exchange of views.

9. It is proposed that oral statements presented during the Summit should not exceed seven minutes, it being understood that full-length statements may be circulated in writing.

D. Meeting of heads of State or Government

10. On 11 and 12 March, statements will normally be presented by heads of State or Government.

E. Establishment of the Main Committee of the Summit

11. The Main Committee of the Summit will meet from the afternoon of 6 March to 10 March. Its Chairman will be elected by the Summit in accordance with the provisions of rule 6 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Summit. In accordance with rule 49, the Main Committee will elect its own officers. It is recommended that agreement be reached on the slate of candidates for posts falling within the ambit of the Main Committee before the opening of the Summit, thus permitting election by acclamation and dispensing with the requirement for a secret ballot.

F. Timetable for the work of the Summit

12. The proposed timetable for the work of the Summit is contained in the annex to the present note. It is understood that the Main Committee will adjust its organization of work as required.

G. Organization of meetings

13. The resources available to the Summit allow for a maximum of two simultaneous meetings in the morning and two in the afternoon, with interpretation facilities, including committees, working groups and informal consultations. Interpretation facilities can be provided to regional or interest group meetings only when these are held in place of formal meetings.

14. In accordance with the provisions of rule 48 of the provisional rules of procedure, the Summit and the Main Committee may establish such committees and working groups as they deem necessary for the performance of their functions. It should be noted, however, that committees, subcommittees and working groups can be established only to the extent permitted by the Summit service facilities available at the Bella Centre.

15. Meetings will normally be scheduled from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. In order to ensure the most efficient use of available resources, it is essential that all meetings start promptly at the time scheduled. For the

meeting of heads of State or Government, the schedule will, of necessity, be adjusted as need be.

V. CREDENTIALS OF REPRESENTATIVES TO THE SUMMIT: APPOINTMENT OF THE MEMBERS OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

16. Rule 4 of the provisional rules of procedure provides that a Credentials Committee of nine members shall be appointed at the beginning of the Summit and that its composition shall be based on that of the Credentials Committee of the General Assembly of the United Nations at its forty-ninth session.

17. At the forty-ninth session of the General Assembly, the Credentials Committee was composed of China, Fiji, Honduras, Namibia, Portugal, the Russian Federation, Suriname, Togo and the United States of America.

VI. REPORT OF THE SUMMIT

18. In accordance with the practice followed at previous United Nations conferences, it is recommended that the report of the Summit consist of the decisions of the Summit, a brief account of the proceeding, and a repertorial account of the work of the Main Committee and of the action taken in plenary meeting on its recommendations.

Annex

PROPOSED TIMETABLE FOR THE WORK OF THE SUMMIT

6 March, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Inaugural ceremony

Adoption of the agenda of the Summit*

Opening of the general exchange of views

6 March, 3 to 6 p.m.

Continuation of the general exchange of views

Suggested theme for the general exchange of views on 6 March:

"An enabling environment for social development"

7 March

10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Continuation of the general exchange of views

3 to 6 p.m.

Suggested theme for the general exchange of views on 7 March:

"Eradication of poverty"

8 March

Suggested theme for the general exchange of views on 8 March (International Women's Day):

"Gender perspective: enhancing the participation of women in social progress and development"

9 March

Suggested theme for the general exchange of views on 9 March:

"Productive employment and the reduction of unemployment"

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* Including establishment of the Main Committee to resolve any outstanding issues. The Main Committee will conduct its work, as required, during the period 6-10 March, parallel to the general exchange of views.

10 March

Suggested themes for the general exchange of views on 10 March:

"Social integration"

"Implementation and follow-up"

11 March

10 to 11 a.m.

Welcoming ceremony for heads of State or Government

11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and
3 to 6 p.m.

Statements by heads of State or Government

12 March

10 a.m.* to 1 p.m. and
3 to 6 p.m.

Statements by heads of State or Government

7 to 9 p.m.

Adoption of the Declaration and Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development and of the report of the Summit

Closing statements

Closure of the Summit

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* The morning meeting on 12 March may be held at 9 a.m. if the number of statements to be delivered on that day so warrants.

MAIN COMMITTEE

Monday, 6 March	
3 p.m.	Election of officers Organization of work Declaration and Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development (item 10)
Tuesday, 7 March	
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.	Declaration and Programme of Action (continued)
Wednesday, 8 March	
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.	Declaration and Programme of Action (continued)
Thursday, 9 March	
10 a.m.	Declaration and Programme of Action (concluded)
3 p.m.	Action on all outstanding matters

Completion of the work of the Committee